



## WEST VIRGINIA DRUG CONTROL UPDATE

*This report reflects significant trends, data, and major issues relating to drugs in the State of West Virginia.*

### West Virginia At-a-Glance:

- In 2007-2008, West Virginia was one of the top ten states for rates in several drug-use categories among young adults age 18-25: past-year use of cocaine; past-month use of illicit drugs other than marijuana; and illicit drug dependence.  
*Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 2007-2008.*
- Approximately 7 percent of West Virginia residents reported past-month illicit drug use; the national average was 8 percent.
- The rate of drug-induced deaths in West Virginia is higher than the national average. McDowell County in West Virginia has the 5<sup>th</sup> highest rate of drug poisoning deaths in the country, at 38.3 deaths per 100,000 population.

## Drug Use Trends in West Virginia

**Drug Use in West Virginia:** The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) provides national and state-level data on the use of tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs (including non-medical use of prescription drugs), and mental health in the United States. In the most recent Survey, 6.79 percent of West Virginia residents reported using illicit drugs in the past month. The national average was 8.02 percent. Additionally, 3.78 percent of West Virginia residents reported using an illicit drug other than marijuana in the past month (the national average was 3.58 percent).

*Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration - State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2007-2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health:*  
<http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k8state/Cover.pdf>

**Drug-Induced Deaths:** As a direct consequence of drug use, 405 persons died in West Virginia in 2007. This is compared to the number of persons in West Virginia who died from motor vehicle accidents (429) and firearms (267) in the same year. West Virginia drug-induced deaths (22.4 per 100,000 population) exceeded the national rate (12.7 per 100,000).

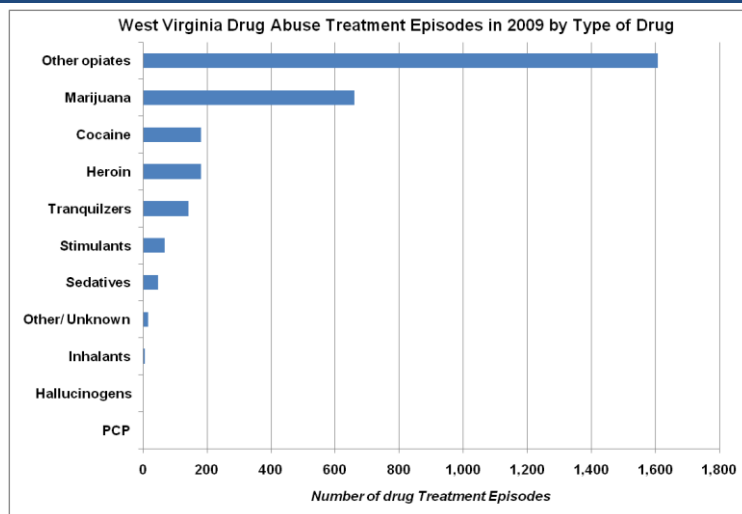
*Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - National Vital Statistics Reports Volume 58, Number 19 for 2007:*  
[http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr58/nvsr58\\_19.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr58/nvsr58_19.pdf)

## Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions Data

### West Virginia primary treatment

**admissions:** The graph at right depicts substance abuse primary treatment admissions in West Virginia in 2009. The data show that opiates, including prescription drugs, are the most commonly cited drugs among primary drug treatment admissions in the state.

*Source: Treatment Episode Data Set, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/dasis.htm>*





## Drugged Driving

### ONDCP Action on Drugged Driving

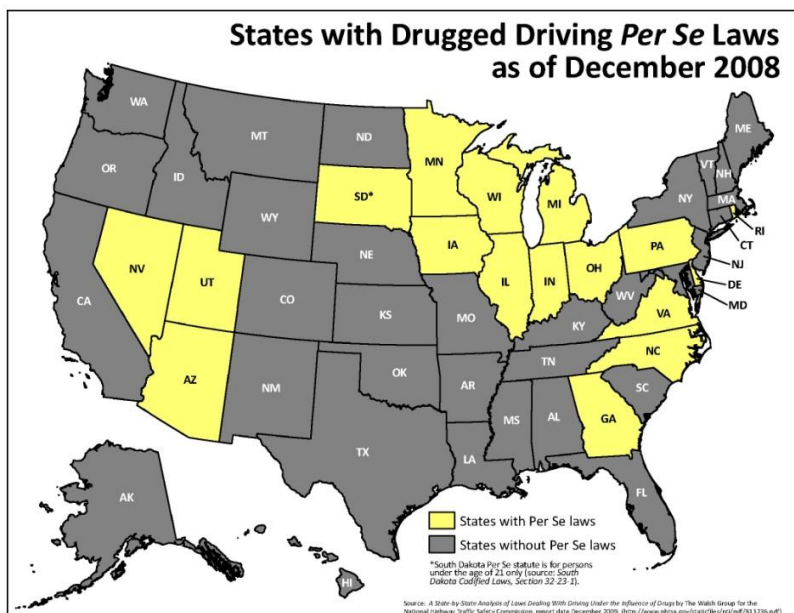
In 2007, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) found that one in eight weekend, nighttime drivers tested positive for illicit drugs. According to recent Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS) data, one in three motor vehicle fatalities (33 percent) with known drug test results tested positive for drugs in 2009. Recognizing this growing problem, ONDCP is working to raise awareness of the dangers of drugged driving, provide increased training to law enforcement in identifying drugged drivers, and encourage states to consider *Per Se* laws to facilitate effective enforcement and prosecution of those who drive with drugs in their systems.

#### **State-Level Action: Enacting *Per Se* Standards for Impairment**

Although all 50 states have laws against drugged driving, law enforcement often lacks adequate tools to enforce and prosecute drugged driving. ONDCP encourages states to develop and implement *Per Se* standards for impairment that make it illegal to drive a vehicle after taking illegal drugs. This is the same standard used successfully for 12 million commercial drivers in the United States over the past two decades. *Per Se* standards have been adopted in 17 states.

**West Virginia does not currently have a *Per Se* standard**, but West Virginia State law ( §17C-5-2) prohibits driving under the influence by any person “under the influence of any controlled substance” or “any other drug.” In addition, it is a misdemeanor to both drive a vehicle or knowingly permit your own vehicle to be driven by “any person who is a habitual user of narcotic drugs or amphetamine or any derivative thereof.” Legal entitlement or prescription to use a controlled substance is not a defense for driving under the influence.

Source: *A State-by-State Analysis of Laws Dealing With Driving Under the Influence of Drugs*, by the Walsh Group for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, December 2009.



## ONDCP Support for Community-Based Prevention

### National Anti-Drug Media Campaign

ONDCP's National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign provides consistent and credible messages (including in Native American and Alaska Native communities) to young people about drug use and its consequences. *Above the Influence*, a major component of the Campaign, informs and inspires youth to reject illicit drugs and drinking via a mix of national and local advertising vehicles. The Campaign, in close partnership with local community-based, youth-serving organizations, also conducts teen-targeted *Above the Influence* activities to assist local groups with youth drug prevention work in their respective communities.

**The Drug Free Communities Program:** Recognizing that local problems require local solutions, Drug Free Communities (DFC) organizations mobilize communities to prevent youth drug use by creating local data-driven strategies to reduce drug use in the community. ONDCP works to foster the growth of new coalitions and support existing coalitions through the DFC grants. In FY 2011, the following West Virginia coalitions received grants from ONDCP:

- Brooke Hancock Drug Prevention Coalition (Weirton, WV)
- Cabell County Substance Abuse Prevention Partnership
- Creating Opportunities for Youth (Bluefield)
- Jackson County Anti-Drug Coalition
- Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition
- Morgan County Partnership, Inc.
- Ohio County Substance Abuse Prevention
- Strong Through Our Plan (Gilbert, WV)

Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy  
[http://www.ondcp.gov/dfc/grantee\\_map.html](http://www.ondcp.gov/dfc/grantee_map.html)

## ONDCP High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) County Info

The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program enhances and coordinates drug control efforts among local, state, and Federal law enforcement agencies. In designated HIDTA counties, the program provides agencies with coordination, equipment, technology, and additional resources to combat drug trafficking and its harmful consequences in critical regions of the United States.

### HIDTA Counties in West Virginia:

**Appalachia HIDTA:** Boone, Cabell, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Putnam and Wayne counties.

- The Appalachia HIDTA supports five multi-agency task forces in West Virginia whose mission is to dismantle and disrupt drug trafficking organizations operating in the designated HIDTA counties.
  - *Huntington Violent Crimes/Drug Task Force:* focuses on major organizations that traffic in marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, and diverted pharmaceuticals.
  - *Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Network Team:* investigates family-based or loosely knit trafficking organization involved in marijuana cultivation, clandestine methamphetamine laboratories, and diversion of pharmaceuticals in southern West Virginia.
  - *U.S. 119 Drug and Violent Crime Task Force:* focuses on drug trafficking organizations, with specific emphasis on the four primary drugs affecting the region: cannabis, OxyContin, cocaine, and cocaine base.
  - *West Virginia DEA HIDTA Task Force:* focuses on locally based mid- to upper-level drug trafficking organizations with local, multi-state, or international operations.
  - *West Virginia Eradication Initiative:* focuses on reducing the availability of marijuana in the region and beyond.

## Federal Grant Awards Available to Reduce Drug Use in the State of West Virginia

The Federal Government awards competitive grants to help states in their efforts to reduce drug use and its harmful consequences. In FY 2010, direct support was provided to state and local governments, schools, and law enforcement organizations in your state for this purpose. Some Federal grant programs are dedicated to reducing drug use and its harmful consequences while others can be used for reducing drug use or for other purposes. In FY 2010, your State received support under the grant programs shown below.

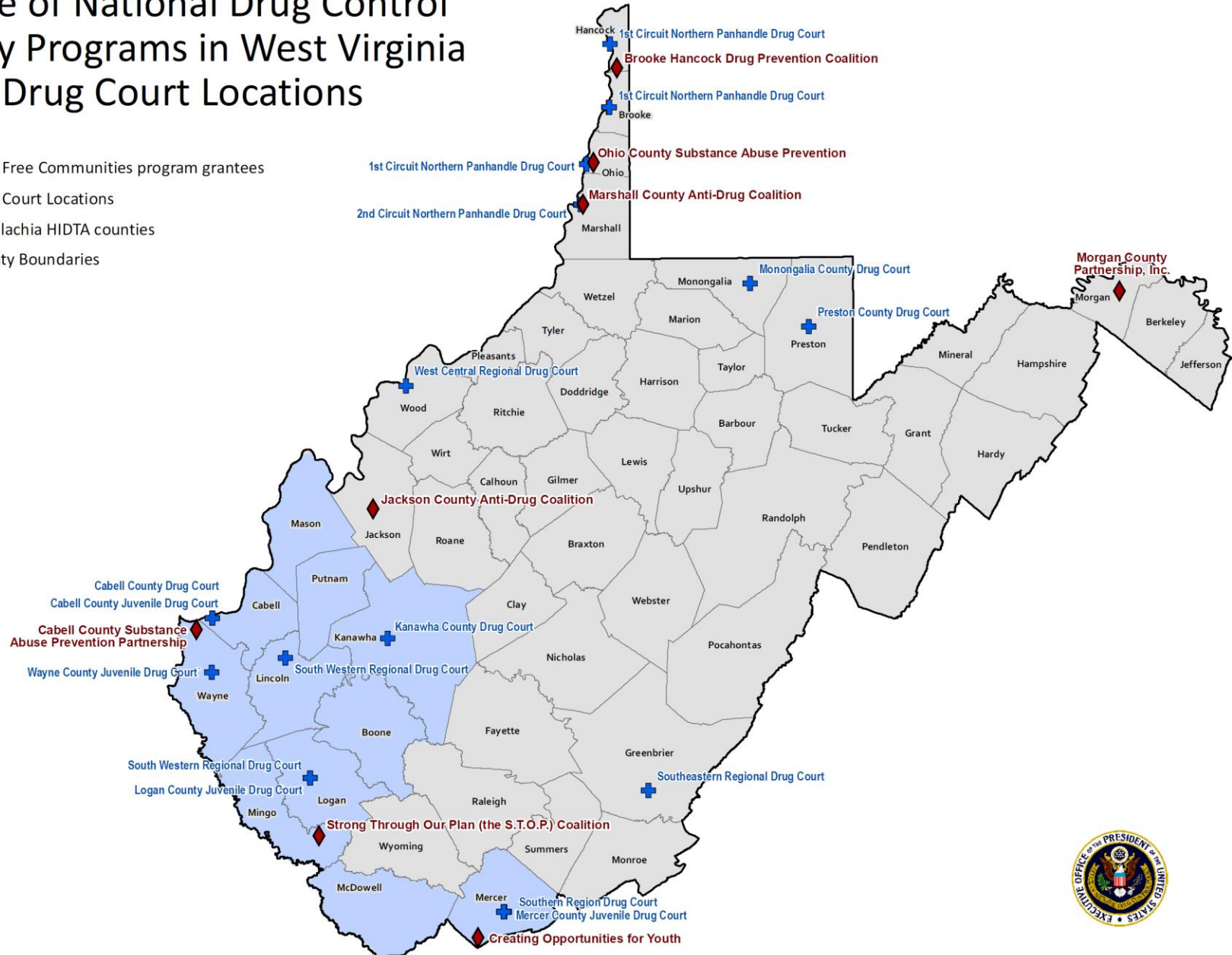
Federal Grant Awards		2010
<b>Department of Education</b>		
Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities_National Programs		2,339,601
Improving The Climate For Learning		2,339,601
<b>Department of Health and Human Services</b>		
Administration for Children and Families		3,072,235
Mentoring Children of Prisoners		206,227
Promoting Safe and Stable Families		2,866,008
Health Resources and Services Administration		698,735
Healthy Start Initiative		698,735
National Institutes of Health		878,707
Discovery and Applied Research for Technological Innovations to Improve Human Health		522,513
Drug Abuse and Addiction Research Programs		356,194
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration		14,370,431
Block Grants for Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse		8,740,456
Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)		300,000
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services_Projects of Regional and National Significance		5,329,975
<b>Department of Housing and Urban Development</b>		
Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development		(158,168)
Shelter Plus Care		(158,168)
<b>Department of Justice</b>		
Office of Justice Programs		22,857,928
Community Capacity Development Office		157,000
Congressionally Recommended Awards		3,606,000
Criminal and Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program		200,000
Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program		350,000
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program		2,998,238
Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program		356,400
Juvenile Accountability Block Grants		404,800
National Institute of Justice Research Evaluation and Development Project Grants		14,331,349
Recovery Act - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program		242,151
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners		211,990
<b>Executive Office of the President</b>		
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration		1,000,000
Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grants		1,000,000
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>45,059,469</b>

**Note:** Report as of 11/30/2010. FY 2009 includes additional grant awards under the Recovery Act. The Federal, State and Local Shares of Medicaid and the Federal Medicare Programs are not included above. Updated 6/7/2011.



# Office of National Drug Control Policy Programs in West Virginia with Drug Court Locations

- ◆ Drug Free Communities program grantees
- + Drug Court Locations
- Appalachia HIDTA counties
- County Boundaries



Source: National Drug Court Institute and ONDCP, September 2011

ONDCP002688